



January 23, 2013

Montana House of Representatives Education Committee

Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the chance to speak on behalf of the Montana Library Association in regards to HB 181 (Allow local trustees to define library media services resource standards) last Friday. While the Montana Library Association appreciates the struggles of rural school districts and understands the intent of Representative Ballance's bill, MLA remains opposed to HB 181 – with the proposed amendments. We respect the process and the opportunity to discuss the bill, amendments, solutions and unintended consequences with Representative Ballance. However, the amended bill singles out library media specialists and will allow local trustees to set the student/library media specialist ratio for their district. Even with the amendments, this bill leaves the door open to greatly reduce the number of trained and educated librarians in our schools. Minimum standards create equitable programs and learning opportunities in every district.

If you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Please vote NO on the amendments to HB 181 and vote DO NOT pass on HB 181.

Kind regards,

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Chair of Government Relations  
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